

✍ The testimony of a defected HTS fighter that witnessed the besieged Uqayribat pocket and the events that happened in eastern Hamah:

Before I begin, daesh, dawaesh, khawarij = is what the apostates calls the Islamic State.

Tribe of Shu'aytat was a tribe in Deir Ezzor that rebelled against the Islamic State, the sort of rebellion of the resisting party like the apostates who resisted paying the zakat to the first Khalifah Abu Bakr as-Siddiq radhi Allahu anhu:

? "The Islamic State was besieged in Uqayribat from all sides by the regime and by us Hay'ah (by being the second "line"), they had nothing in front of them except an inevitable death.

We received women, children and some wounded during the night, we used to receive the public, as for the women of the dawaesh (Islamic State) as they were called by my previous brothers in the Hay'ah, then we were holding them under investigation to find out how to place them, and on the other hand, to put pressure on the dawaesh.

Everyone asking themselves who is this guy talking and what is his goal? By Allah whom there is no other god worthy of worshiping except Him, I do not mean to distort or out of my aggression, but to clear some facts out of fear for standing before Allah (on the day of Judgment), punishment in the world is less than punishment in the hereafter.

I fear Allah, after what I witnessed with my own eyes and before me, I left Jihad sitting in my home helpless.

We captured a lot of women, children and wounded, and the prisons of 'Uqab and Akardah and others are witness to that, there exists amni prisons that only the amni'in knows about.

In front of the camera (i.e in public) we (HTS) say "Oh our families in Uqayribat" and in absence of the camera we say "Dogs of Daesh, whores of the Khawarij" and others...

It is true that we treated the wounded, but after the treatment they were taken to the prisons that was mentioned as well as the prisons in Idlib and Harem.

I was present in more than one events when we received the displaced people that were fleeing from the inevitable death, we asked them how their situation is inside (the besieged area), one of the displaced women said: "I swear by the Almighty Allah that we only eat burghul drenched in cold water, we do not have any life components..."

One of the members (of HTS) asked her: "Why doesn't the Dawaesh feed you? Are you not living among their midst?"

She looked with her heart full of pain and said "By Allah the "dawaesh" eats grass and thorns if they find any whilst giving every house burghul to eat...they drink water from the sewer while we drink hot water (clean water), this is what they are capable of, the regime didn't leave us a single well of water that we can drink from, and the members of "dawaesh" were tying stones around their bellies (just as the Messenger of Allah salAllahu aleyhi wa sallam did because of the severe hunger as was reported by Musnad Ahmad) and more than this..." she became quiet and started crying.

We received a message from the amir (of the State) in Uqayribat, he asked of us "we do not want food, or drinks or weapons, nothing, all we ask of you is to let the women, children and wounded pass through peacefully and to release the captives (families/wounded that HTS previously had taken)."

The message reached our amir Abu Mus'ab in the badiya section, but the Shu'aytat (a lot of Jowlānis in eastern Hamah are survivors of Shu'aytat) refused the message because of their hate, grudge (towards the State) and they replied to the message that "the dawaesh are dogs of hellfire, anyone of you who comes, his fate will be killing, and what is circulated that the (Jowlāni) Front helped the dawaesh by receiving them and arming them and resend them back to Uqayribat is a disgrace to the truth, on the contrary, we would take the weapons from those who came out..."

And when we saw the displaced people we forced them to say what we wanted them to say.

Anyhow, we received anothr message from "Daesh" threatening us that if we (HTS) does not release the captive women, children and wounded

from the Muhajirin and Ansar, then they will storm us after 72 hours - and we made fun of them, how will skeletons without food or drinks storm us?

And truly after the time passed by an hour, they (the State) began their attack on the regime after fierce

battles cutting the road near Ithriya and Wadi al-'Athib towards the highway, and out of fear of their advancement towards us, we targeted the Dawaesh with machine guns and artillery.

They stormed us and took a number of villages and prisoners, killed and injured from the Shu'aytat, and we all know about the latest exchange of prisoners where they gave us 8 captives in return for women and children, as for the wounded then they are still with the amni'in.

This was the reason (for Islamic State's attack on HTS) and anyone who says "treachery" or "betrayal" or other of the same kind, then he is supporting the falsehood.

I gave you this truth so whoever wants the truth then let him believe it, and whoever wants to doubt it then there will be a standing before Allah the Almighty, where everyone will be accounted for even for a word he speaks.

- Defector from Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in the Badiya section."